

MASSIVE DEVELOPMENT PACKAGE

Jammu & Kashmir administration has released a report on the development initiatives in the union territory. The report titled 'Jammu & Kashmir-Towards Peace, Progress Prosperity'. The report highlights the development on different parameters including governance, power sector, COVID management, education, agriculture growth etc. The report says that J&K has become the first state to devise a comprehensive district good governance index. As per the report, the union territory reported an overall increase of 3.7 percentage points over Good Governance Index in 2019, adding that it 'performed strongly in the commerce and industry sector and improved its score in agriculture & allied Sectors, public infrastructure and utilities and judiciary & public safety.'

In terms of development, the J&K government said the union territory witnessed a record number of development projects completed in 2021-22, i.e., 50,726. Besides the construction of 3,284 Km roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, a total of 2,353 projects under the scheme have been completed in J&K since inception. J&K emerged as a new investment destination, coming out from the era of red tape to red carpet. It has received investment proposals worth more than Rs 52,000 crore with an employment potential of 2.37 lakh, the report said, adding that the union territory has become a top destination for ease of doing business.

The union territory of Jammu and Kashmir now boasts of a robust health infrastructure. Besides two new AIIMS, seven medical colleges, ten new nursing colleges comprising an infrastructure project worth more than Rs 7,000 crores, the report says the UT maintained momentum and growth during the COVID-19 pandemic. J&K achieved many landmarks in the field of education which includes establishing an IIT and IIM in the union territory in record time. The report stated that 50 new colleges were added while 25,000 college seats were increased in record time.

Jammu and Kashmir has been ranked third in monthly income of agricultural households and was ranked as the fifth best performing state/union territory in agriculture & allied sectors. According to the report, J&K carried out the largest ever recruitment drive in history, selecting more than 11,500 candidates which include special consideration for disadvantaged categories - widows, divorced women, judicially separated women and orphan girls. As part of the Centre's outreach programme, 72 union ministers visited all the 20 districts of the union territory. They interacted with the public, administration and panchayati raj institutions. 100 new development works were inaugurated and 300 new foundation stones were laid.

Package employees agitating for survival

■ **OMKAR DATTATRAY**

The hapless Prime Minister Package employees are agitating from last about two months not for anything unattainable, but they are demanding and begging for their survival and safety. The government is turning a blind eye to their genuine demand for safety of their life, limb and dignity & basic and only demand of their relocation outside Kashmir. There unfortunate sons of mother India are not demanding something anti-national and utopian things but are only demanding their safety and survival. The right to life is guaranteed under article-21 of the Indian constitution and they are asking and appealing for the fulfillment of this constitutional guarantee and the insensitive NDA government of centre and the LG's administration of the UT are not paying any heed to the agitating package employees who are on continuous strike in the scorching heat but the government seems unconcerned to the genuine demand of their survival which is possible only when they are relocated in safe Jammu division otherwise not. Therefore the government should come to the rescue of the agitating package employees and accept their only and genuine demand of relocation outside the valley so that they and their families are saved from the bullets of the terrorists who are after their lives as testified by the killings of Rahul Bhat, M L Bindroo, Rajni Bala and others. These package employees are not demanding sun, moon and stars which cannot be given being impractical and unattainable but they are simply demanding the safety of their life and of their family as well. Therefore the government should accept their only and genuine demand of relocation to Jammu division till the Kashmir limps back to complete normalcy. The BJP government of centre should come down from their ego and shun its rigid attitude and accept the only and genuine demand of the relocation of the

package employees so that their life and dignity is saved. The government is constitutionally duty bound to accept the demand of survival and safety of their lives which can be possible if these unfortunate employees are relocated and attached to the office of Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner Migrants Jammu. The package employees are holding supernumerary posts and the temporary adjustment even in the government offices and schools of Jammu division will not affect the service conditions and promotional prospects of the Jammu employees as the salary of the package employees is debited to centre expenditure. So, adjustment of the package employees in Jammu has no adverse bearing on the employees of Jammu and thus adjustment of the package employees is not a problematic issue and so the government should accede to the genuine and only demand of their relocation outside the Kashmir so that their life is saved and they enjoy the right to life as guaranteed by the constitution. The Package employees are not agitating for their service matters of promotion and seniority but are only demanding their relocation to Jammu division so that their risk to life is ensured and they are saved from the bullets of the terrorists. The package employees are agitating at both places of Jammu and Kashmir. In Kashmir these employees are protesting for their relocation to Jammu division in the migrant transit camps of Sheikhpora, Vessu, Mattan, Vervan and are also holding peaceful protests in Partap park in Srinagar. The counterparts of the striking package employees are protesting at the office of Relief commissioner Jammu and at times they are protesting at press club of Jammu to attract the attention of the indifferent government which seems in no mood to accept their only demand of relocation to Jammu division. The NDA government is under false and fake impression that the

PM employment package is part and parcel of the rehabilitation policy of the government, while the fact and reality is that the employment package of the Pandit youth is not a part of rehabilitation as it is purely an economic package to absorb the unemployed youth of the uprooted Kashmiri Pandits in government jobs and to give some succor to the unemployed youth of the displaced community. Thus, PM employment package should not and cannot be clubbed with the return and rehabilitation policy, rehabilitation of the uprooted Kashmiri Pandits is a comprehensive policy and its scope is wide while the Special employment PM employment package is an economic package to absorb the unemployed youth of the displaced youth of Pandit community in government jobs. Thus the government should not view the relocation of the package employees as a failure of the return and rehabilitation policy. The powers that be should be magnanimous and should accede to the genuine and the only demand of the relocation of the package employees so that their life is saved from the terrorists who are after their precious lives. Thus the government should not be under the misconception that by acceding to the demand of the relocation of the package employees and by shifting these hapless employees to Jammu division, it will be a failure of the return and rehabilitation policy. Therefore, the centre government and the LG administration should show broadmindedness and order the shifting and relocation of the package employees from Kashmir so that their life and honor is saved. No bats will appear at noon if the package employees are shifted to Jammu division and thus the relocation of the package employees should not be made a prestige issue by the government but the reluctant NDA government should accede to the genuine demand of their relocation temporary to Jammu division till the complete normalcy is restored in Kashmir. When the NDA government led by

the BJP has abrogated the controversial article-370 of the constitution and made the unattainable possible, then why is the same government shying away from relocating the package employees to Jammu division? The package employees are not making impractical demands but are only asking and appealing for their survival and the government should accept their demand of relocation at the earliest to save them from the terrorists who are after their lives. The package employees are asked to sign a bond and enter into an agreement with the government at the time of their appointment to the effect that they will not claim for their transfer for the entire service career. This signing of the bond and agreement is unconstitutional and unlawful as well as void and therefore deserves to be rescinded retrospectively to give some succor to the package employees. The package employees have not violated the bond but it is the government which has violated the conditions and terms of the bond by failing to provide government accommodation to the package employees. Majority of the package employees are living in the private rented accommodation and it is not possible for the government to provide fool proof security to the package employees living in private rented accommodation. The government should provide accommodation to all the package employees so that they can live and perform their duties without any fear. Till the accommodation is provided to all the package employees working in Kashmir and till complete normalcy is restored in the valley the package employees should be relocated to Jammu division so that their life, limb and dignity is saved. In short, it can be said with certainty that the package employees should be relocated to Jammu division till normalcy is restored back in Kashmir and till the ground situation is made conducive for their living and working.

(The author is a columnist and social activist).

OFF 'D' CUFF
Mysticism Can Link Finite With Infinite

Since the dawn of civilisation, one often-asked question is about salvation of human beings. The supra-psychic existence that remains in close proximity to a corporal framework, and uses that very corporal framework as the only medium of its own emanations and emanations, can attain salvation. As per ancient scriptures, Shiv states that even having a corporal structure one can attain salvation, if one changes the idea of microcosm into macrocosm.

Possibilities and potentialities of attaining salvation lie in the very existence of the supra-psychic being.

What is infinite in macrocosm is finite in microcosm, but potentialities are the same. So, what is required is to develop one's finite attributions into infinite ones through the process of mystic approach.

What is mysticism? Mysticism is a never-ending endeavour to find out the link between finite and infinite. And when that link is established, Shiv-vakya comes true.

In Brahmn Vandana, while ascribing so many attributions to Brahmn, it has been said that He is Paresha.

What is Paresha? Para and apara are two counterparts of each and every existence. The seen portion is called para and the subjective portion is para.

Now, what you see or do with the help of your sensory, motor organs or that external object, in the first phase, is para and your sensory and motor organs are para. And in the second phase, the next interior phase, those gates or organs are para and the mind is para.

Then in the next inner phase, your mind is para and the unit spirit is para. And in the final phase

your atman, your unit spirit, is apara and He is the Supreme Para. He is the Lord of all Paras. Hence, he is called Paresha.

So, when one withdraws one's propensities from the objective world towards subjectivity, one attains that Paresha. Therein lies the secret of sadhana. So, the Supreme Entity is Paresha and is also the Prabhu -- 'the best existence'. It is said that He is Sarvendriyagamaya -- He cannot be achieved by any indriya. What are indriyas? There are five motor indriyas, five sensory indriyas and the eleventh one is the mind. Mind is also an indriya; that is why the Vedas too say, That is, where all the expressions of indriyas, where all the inferences fail and where mind too fails, that is Supreme Subjectivity. When that mind along with indriyas is withdrawn and placed into Him, then it is param shthiti, supreme stance. In that stance, there is no fear.

Sarvendriyagamaya Satya -- it is the Supreme Truth, that is, where 'sat' is fully established, it is called 'satya'.

And what is 'sat'? Sat means 'that which undergoes no metamorphosis'. So, in this universe of ours, that Paresha, that entity, is the only satya. He cannot be your mental object.

While meditating on the Supreme, you cannot accept Him as your object, because everything is His object. He is the Supreme Subject. So, what is necessary -- and herein lies the charm -- is that while doing japa and dhyana, you should think that He is seeing you, you are His object.

Shrii Shrii Anandamurtijii

PROGRESSING J&K
Digi Pay Sakhi scheme providing financial access to remote areas with transparency

J&K Admn brought interventions for creating gainful livelihood opportunities for remote areas

Digi Pay Sakhi Scheme is providing financial access to the people of remote areas of Jammu and Kashmir with greater transparency. The people belonging to the village areas now are able to take the benefit of the additional banking and financial services. It is one of the initiatives that has been started by the Prime Minister to take banking services to the doorstep of the people. In an endeavour to promote door to door digital banking and financial services in remote areas of Jammu & Kashmir, J&K Rural Livelihood Mission (JKRLM) has trained 125 women from Self Help Groups as DIGI-Pay Sakhis in 2000 villages under Mission 'One Gram Panchayat-One DIGI-Pay Sakhi'. Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, led administration is taking several ground breaking steps to transform the lives of women of Jammu and Kashmir especially those living in rural areas by engaging them in gainful livelihood interventions. Lieutenant Governor; during the launch of Mission 'One Gram Panchayat-One DIGI-Pay Sakhi' in the UT last year distributed 80 Aadhaar Enabled Payment Systems (AEPs) among the DIGI-Pay Sakhis under JKRLM. At the launch event, Lieutenant Governor said that DIGI-Pay Sakhi has introduced financial inclusion within the UT's Self Help Group (SHG) ecosystem creating much needed financial access points with greater transparency even in remotest of the areas. Apart from depositing money, the village population can also avail the ben-

efits of additional banking and financial services such as Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maandhan Yojana, registration of Kisan Credit Card etc under this mission. Under the mission, Rural Livelihoods Mission, J&K has trained DIGI-Pay Sakhis in financial services training courses run by BSE in J&K. The DIGI-Pay Sakhis are also spreading awareness among rural women to avail maximum benefit of various central and UT sponsored schemes. Believing that Nari Shakti's social and economic independence is the bedrock of any nation's progress, the J&K administration has started a mass movement for socio-economic uplift of women across the UT. The three new initiatives of Digi-Pay, Krishi Sakhi and Pashu Sakhi besides several other programs of women empowerment such as Hausla, Tejaswini, UMEED, Rise Together will further supplement the efforts of J&K government in empowering women and making them a key partner in UT's development journey. Notably, J&K government is working to set up Women Industrial Estate at Udhampur to further strengthen the Women Entrepreneurs ecosystem in J&K. With increasing female literacy rate, enhanced access to quality education, encouraging more and more women to become entrepreneurs and providing financial support for the uplift of women, Jammu & Kashmir is now leading in the world of women empowerment.

'Naya Jammu Kashmir' for a New India

■ **KRISHNA SHARMA**

August 5, 2022, will mark third anniversary of the Government of India's historic step to repeal the special status of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and bifurcate it into two Union Territories -- the UT of J&K and the UT of Ladakh. This move was long due and has dramatically altered the ground situation by ushering in peace and development. Political elites had treated both Article 370 and 35 (A) of the Indian Constitution that gave the erstwhile state of J&K special status as a permanent feature of Kashmir's political landscape. This status was abused to bring in a system of political patronage and pushed the whole Jammu and Kashmir into misgovernance and corruption. The heady cocktail of separatism and terrorism only worsened this situation as the local youth, disappointed with nepotism and corruption, became cannon fodder for terrorism even as the kith and kin of separatists studied in foreign universities and landed cushy jobs. A once progressive society, proud of its intellectual legacy and pluralistic outlook, was reduced to a pale shadow of its former self. There was always recognition among the ordinary Kashmiris that the special status had benefited only the local elites to keep alive anti-India sentiments in the Valley. However, fearing violent reprisals, many dared not speak out against this and no government before dared to scrap it. But two years ago, India crossed the Rubicon. And a perceptible change on the ground is already evident with the dramatically reduced hold of the separatist leadership, which had made protests and 'hantals' its main activity, impacting the ordinary Kashmiris, especially those dependent on daily earnings. Another noticeable change is the significant decline in stone-pelting incidents and reduced activities of the terrorist groups. It has denied the terrorist commanders and their masterminds based in Pakistan the much-craved anti-India narrative and propaganda to brainwash the local youth. Immediately the Union government extended more than 100 progressive laws to the J&K UT, including the Right to Education, Right to Work, Juvenile Justice Act, Women Representation Act etc. All these changes have given hope to the Kashmiris about better prospects for their families and the region. Now under the direct management of New Delhi, the local administration has also stepped up, as evident during the outbreak of the deadly COVID-19 pandemic. An empowered administration quickly moved to do contact tracing and quarantining potentially infected citizens, beefing up the local healthcare facilities, imposing restrictions on public movement and rigorously implementing the vaccination programme to protect the vulnerable segments. The J&K UT's pro-active measures ensured that the region didn't witness large-scale infections during the second wave of the pandemic. This pro-activeness has been carried to other areas of the administration too. Infrastructure development has topped the administrative agenda to bring unprecedented all-year-round connectivity to the Valley. The National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation has begun work to build five tunnels -- Pir-Ki-Gali, Vailoo, Daranga,

Zojila and Z-Morah -- to be completed by 2024. Besides, work on the world's highest railway bridge over the Chenab river is in the final stages of construction. Once completed, it will extend the rest of India's train connectivity to north Kashmir. Starved of funds from the state government earlier, the local Panchayati Raj institutions are now getting proper attention. Since August 2019, the UT has successfully conducted elections for Panchs and Sarpanchs, Block Development Councils and District Development Councils. These institutions are also being provided the required funds to ensure speedy completion of local work and address the developmental needs of the people. Ambitious initiatives like 'Back to Village' have further strengthened the focus on Panchayati Raj institutions. Under this initiative, government officials visited all the 4,129 Panchayat halqas to get feedback on various government schemes in their areas. The government has also made it mandatory for carrying out at least two developmental works in every Panchayat. These efforts have ensured community participation for the locals in managing their affairs. The government's efforts to promote development have not remained restricted to villages. Recognizing Kashmiris' indomitable entrepreneurial spirit and penchant for digital technology, the government has inaugurated the 'Mission Youth' initiative, which trains local youth for jobs and businesses in emerging sectors like banking and financial services, fashion and designing, cyber security, web designing, robotics and Artificial Intelligence. In addition, the Entrepreneurial Development Institute has promised additional funding for youth willing to start their business units. Under the 'Munkin' scheme, the government is providing small commercial vehicles to the youth with reasonable subsidies to earn a livelihood. Besides, the government is progressively bringing all the regions on the digital bandwagon by launching Digital Village Centres. Investors from the rest of the country are looking to invest in hospitality, service and other sectors of the J&K UT. The changes in the land ownership rules hold potentially new changes as it will enable bigger and diverse hotel chains to invest in resorts like Gulnarg, Pahalgam and Sonmarg. More hotels will ensure more accommodation choices for people, which will boost tourism. This is a big opportunity for local employment. Clearly, efforts are on to usher in a new dawn of development and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir. The politics of a small elite class has ended, and a more democratic way of life has been unveiled. And as expected, the locus of the region's politics has shifted from one based on grievance and corruption to one focused on development and solving people's problems. Naturally, this sudden change from violence and pessimism to normalcy and optimism has not gone down well with Pakistan and those who benefited from Kashmir's conflict. As a result, we have seen newer and more insidious attempts from Islamabad to disturb the normalcy in Kashmir and propagate lies about India. However, Pakistan doesn't realize that its propaganda has not received global traction because the world has seen through its hypocrisy and its role in fuelling violence.

e-Unnat-one stop solution for all Govt services

Paradigm shift towards digital, corruption-free J&K

It is no more a dream for youngsters to avail Government services at the cozy comforts of their homes. They always aspired for using the power of technology to access and avail services provided by different departments of the UT. Being tech savvy they always envisioned of the system that is in consonance with their wishes and aspirations. They wanted to use the gadgets in their hands to reach where they had to spend days wandering in the corridors of government offices. It was a change they had envisioned. It was only a bleak, far off idea they used to crave for. It was their desire. A hope to realize their innate potential. An easy opportunity to fill colours in their dreams. That also without having to tire themselves in the labyrinthine alleys of offices and departments. Then a system took shape that truly sensed the needs and aspirations of these youngsters. It foresaw what these youngsters were harboring for years. Those at helm took it upon themselves to materialize what was immaterial for all these years. They started working on all these deliverable and dedicating the same to public one by one. This new dispensation embarked on the path of less government more governance. It is in this pursuit the LG, Manoj Sinha's able administration powered by an efficient team of officers led by Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta worked day in and day out to bring paperless and corruption free administration at the doorsteps of people. The recent launching of unified, single digital platform called e-Unnat for availing much of the significant government services is an instance favoring the same. The e-portal that can be accessed by logging into eunnat.jk.gov.in is an integrated web address developed here giving citizens access to some 107 services provided by various departments. From this single interface a one-time registration gives a person access to all these services and provisions. Be it registration of birth or death, obtaining NOC for installing the mobile tower, street vending license, registration of dairy farm/Gaushalla, road cutting permission, permission for trade fair (Mela), sewerage connection by Housing Department. Or be it issuance of Income certificate, Character, Unemployment, Legal Heir, Dependency, SC/ ST/OBC/ RBA/ EWS/ PSP/IB/ALC certificates by Tehsildar besides attestation of mutations by him all are provided over this single interface.

Moreover applications regarding obtaining of Marriage Assistance, financial assistance under Ladli Beti, and several pensions by the Social welfare department could now be accomplished from this digital platform. During these days the platform has received 128857 applications for above services. Out of these 115135 certificates already stands issued digitally with just 13722 applications under process. The monitoring is done at each level to ensure all the services are delivered as per the timelines fixed under J&K Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA). The interface is user-friendly as it has been created with an aim to make all Government services accessible to the common man at the click of a button and ensure efficiency, transparency, responsiveness and reliability of such services to realize the basic needs of the common man. Citizens need to first register and apply for any service by filling an application form and will receive an output certificate/report as the service deliverables in the portal itself. Marking a remarkable achievement in the digital journey of Jammu and Kashmir, e-Unnat provides a window to the government to get feedback from citizens on any subject related to service delivery, its quality for further improvement. The platform is integrated with Rapid Assessment System (RAS) that gives users an opportunity to give their feedback about their experience of using the service. Further the platform has been fully integrated with the national portal 'Meri Pechan' for more fruitful access and availability. It has also been synchronised with Digi Locker, UMG app, SMS/e-Payment gateway for the overall comfort and ease of the users. It will usher in freedom from running to government offices and will provide strength to the dream of making JK fully digital.